

Message Text

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63

ACTION CU-03

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R 071402Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7699
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0481

STATE FOR CU/EE USIA FOR IEE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OEXC, CZ
SUBJECT: IREX GRANTEE: SHELDEN BIGGS

REF: PERRY/RICHMOND LETTER OF 2/21/75 (C)

1. MATTHEWS PRAGUE VISIT MARCH 4-5 PERMITTED CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION BIGGS CASE. EMBASSY PERPARED TO ACCEPT CONTINUED PRESENCE BIGGS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA GIVEN BIGGS/IREX COMMITMENT THAT BIGGS WILL NOT PURSUE ANY REPEAT ANY WORK ON TRIALS TOPIC IN TIME REMAINING BEFORE APIRL DEPARTURE FROM PRAGUE AND THAT BIGGS WILL NOT REPEAT NOT ATTEMPT TO RE-ENTER CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON TOURIST VISA FOLLOWING WESTERN EUROPE INTERVIEWS WHICH HE WILL PURSUE ON DEPARTURE FROM PRAGUE.
 2. PUBLICATION OF BIGGS TRAILS TOPIC MATERIAL COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED NO SOONER THAN TWO YEARS FROM NOW, NAD PROBABLY LATER. EMBASSY CONSIDERS OPPORTUNITY EMPHASIZE POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE IREX CANDIDATES'S OVER-RIDING ACADEMIC INTERESTES, REGARDLESS OF ANNOUNCED TOPICS, IN DISCUSSION WITH MATTHEWS AS HAVING BEEN USEFUL.
 3. RECALL WITH LESS THAN MONTH REMAINING OF TIME IN PRAGUE WOULD ALERT CZECHS WITHOUT BARRING BIGGS PUBLICATION ON SENSITIVE TOPIC. EMBASSY NOW CONVINCED THAT BIGGS COULD NOT BE PROVEN GUILTY OF DECEIVING IREX. DECEPTION WAS ONLY PRACTICAL GROUNDS FOR RECALL, AND WAS ONLY DESIREABLE INsofar AS SUCH WITHDRAWAL
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MIGHT LESSEN POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO ENTIRE PROGRAM.

4. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME CU/EE REACTIONS, PARTICULARLY ANY
BASED ON FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH MATTHEWS UPON HIS RETURN TO
U.S. WITH REGARD TO THE FUTURE, IT DOES SEEM TO US THAT IREX
SHOULD RE-EXAMINE ITS PROCEDURES FOR INFORMING DEPARTMTNE AND
EMBASSY OF PERTINENT BACKGROUND OF APPLICANTS. IREX
KNEW A GOOD DEAL ABOUT BIGGS'S RESEARCH INTO SLANSKY TRIALS, AND
A DISCUSSION OF THIS WITH DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY MIGHT HAVE
PREVENTED THE PRESENT SITUATION.
PERRY

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